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Application No. 09/891,213

Docket No. 740819-585

1756
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Date of NOA: 3/15/04
Shigeo IRIE) Examiner: Kripa Sagar
Serial No. 09/891,213) Group Art Unit: 1756
Filed: June 26, 2001) Confirmation No. 9379
For: EXPOSURE METHOD AND APPARATUS) **MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180 to deposit account no. 19-2380 to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

The undersigned certifies that either (1) each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or (2) no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Reasons of Rejection issued on March 23, 2004 for the corresponding Japanese patent application together with the references cited therein.

Please note that Japanese Patent Application Laid Open Gazette No. 2000-286187 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,449,332.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the

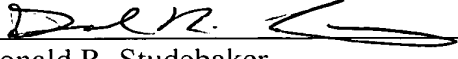
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attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

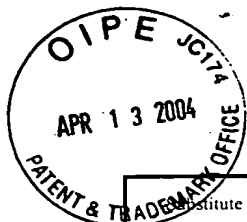
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. (740819-585)

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/891,213
				Filing Date	June 26, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Shigeo IRIE
				Art Unit	1756
				Examiner Name	Kripa Sagar
				Attorney Docket Number	740819-585
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-6,449,332 B1	09-10-2002	Chiba	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 02-042713 A	02-13-1990	Okada		Abstract
		JP 06-151281 A	05-31-1994	Murakami		Abstract
		JP 2000-286187 A	10-13-2000	Chiba		Abstract

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		NOTICE OF REASONS OF REJECTION DATED MARCH 23, 2004	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.